

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/04/2009 has been entered.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The title has been amended as follows:

~~METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING DELIVERY GOODS AND
COMPUTER PRODUCTS~~

Method, Apparatus, and Medium for Remote Approval of a Delivery if the
Recipient is Absent from the Delivery Location

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 7, line 18, which recites "a unit which extracts the information" has been amended to "a unit which extracts, using the CPU, the information".

Claim 9, line 9, which recites "causing the computer to execute a process:" has been amended to "causing the computer to execute ~~a process~~:".

Claim 12, line 3, which recites "further store information for a client" has been amended to "further store information for ~~[[a]]the~~ client".

Claim 15, line 2, which recites "further stores information for a client" has been amended to "further stores information for ~~[[a]]the~~ client".

Claim 16. (Cancelled).

Claim 17. (Cancelled).

Reasons for Allowance

In the present application, claims 1, 4, 7, 9, and 12-15 are allowed. The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not anticipate or render obvious the present invention. The allowable features of claim 1: receiving at the delivery goods management apparatus, a request sent from the deliverer terminal to the user terminal to confirm reception of delivery goods entered by the deliverer through the deliverer terminal while the recipient of the delivery goods from the location is absent, wherein the request includes a message to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location; and transmitting using a CPU, a notification, from the delivery goods management apparatus, to said recipient of confirmation request information through the user terminal based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location.

The allowable features of claims 9, 13, and 14 are the same as claim 1 because they contain the same claim language.

The allowable features of claim 7: a storage which stores recipient information corresponding to information related to a request to confirm reception of delivery goods, which includes a message sent from the deliverer terminal to the user terminal to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location, and also stores information related to the deliverer corresponding to the delivery goods information in said storage; a unit which receives information for the confirmation request entered by the deliverer when the recipient of

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the delivery goods is absent from the location, and also receives the deliver goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information.

The most related prior art patent of record is Sone (US 7,222,081). Sone teaches a system and method for requesting notice of a delivery attempt prior to the delivery attempt which permits the customer to modify the delivery arrangements. However, Sone fails to teach or render obvious receiving at the delivery goods management apparatus, a request sent from the deliverer terminal to the user terminal to confirm reception of delivery goods entered by the deliverer through the deliverer terminal while the recipient of the delivery goods from the location is absent, wherein the request includes a message to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location; and transmitting using a CPU, a notification, from the delivery goods management apparatus, to said recipient of confirmation request information through the user terminal based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location. Additionally, Sone fails to teach or render obvious a storage which stores recipient information corresponding to information related to a request to confirm reception of delivery goods, which includes a message sent from the deliverer terminal to the user terminal to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location, and also stores information related to the deliverer corresponding to the delivery goods information in said storage; a unit which receives information for the confirmation request entered by the deliverer when the recipient of the delivery goods is absent from

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the location, and also receives the deliver goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information.

The most related prior art non-patent literature of record is ProgressiveGrocer (see PTO-892 reference U) which teaches delivering goods to a unattended box located in a customer's garage or basement to enable unattended delivery. However, in combination with Sone, the prior art still fails to teach or render obvious receiving at the delivery goods management apparatus, a request sent from the deliverer terminal to the user terminal to confirm reception of delivery goods entered by the deliverer through the deliverer terminal while the recipient of the delivery goods from the location is absent, wherein the request includes a message to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location; and transmitting using a CPU, a notification, from the delivery goods management apparatus, to said recipient of confirmation request information through the user terminal based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location. Additionally, the combination of ProgressiveGrocer and Sone fail to teach or render obvious a storage which stores recipient information corresponding to information related to a request to confirm reception of delivery goods, which includes a message sent from the deliverer terminal to the user terminal to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location, and also stores information related to the deliverer corresponding to the delivery goods information in said storage; a unit which receives information for the confirmation request entered by the deliverer when the

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recipient of the delivery goods is absent from the location, and also receives the deliver goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information.

For these reasons, the Examiner asserts that claims 1, 4, 7, 9, and 12-15 are allowable because the prior art does not anticipate them or render them obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW ZIMMERMAN whose telephone number is (571)270-5278. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 7:00am-3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Smith can be reached on (571) 272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jeffrey A. Smith/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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MATTHEW ZIMMERMAN
Examiner, Art Unit 3625